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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

C12Q 1/68 A1 (43) International Publication Date: 16 November 1989 (16.11.89) (21) International Application Number: PCT/GB89/00460 (22) International Filing Date: 2 May 1989 (02.05.89) (30) Priority data: 8810400.5 3 May 1988 (03.05.88) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ISIS INNO-VATION LIMITED [GB/GB]; 2 South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3UB (GB). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor; Applicant (for US only): SOUTHERN, Edwin [GB/GB]; 30 Staverton Road, Oxford OX2 6XI (GB). (74) Agent: PENNANT, Pyers; Stevens, Hewlett & Perkins, 5 Quality Court, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1HZ (GB).	(51) Internati nal Patent Classification 4:		(11) International Publication Number: WO 89/10	977
patent), CH (European patent), DE (European patent), FR (European patent), GB (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, LU (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (Europ	C12Q 1/68	A1	(43) International Publication Date: 16 November 1989 (16.1)	1.89)
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(54) Title: ANALYSING POLYNUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCES

(57) Abstract

This invention provides apparatus and method for analysing a polynucleotide sequence, either an unknown sequence or a known sequence. A support, e.g. a glass plate, carries an array of the whole or a chosen part of a complete set of oligonucleotides which are capable of taking part in hybridization reactions. The array may comprise one or more pairs of oligonucleotides. The polynuclotide sequence, or fragments thereof, are labelled and applied to the array under hybridizing conditions. Applications include analysis of known point mutations, genomic fingerprinting, linkage analysis, characterization of mRNAs, mRNA populations, and sequence determination.

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ANALYSING POLYNUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCES

1. INTRODUCTION

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Three methods dominate molecular analysis of nucleic acid sequences: gel electrophoresis of restriction fragments, molecular hybridisation, and the rapid DNA sequencing methods. These three methods have a very wide range of applications in biology, both in basic studies, and in the applied areas of the subject such as medicine and agriculture. Some idea of the scale on which the methods are now used is given by the rate of accumulation of DNA sequences, which is now well over one million base pairs a year. However, powerful as they are, they have their limitations. The restriction fragment and hybridisation methods give a coarse analysis of an extensive region, but are rapid; sequence analysis gives the ultimate resolution, but it is slow, analysing only a short stretch at a time. There is a need for methods which are faster than the present methods, and in particular for methods which cover a large amount of sequence in each analysis.

This invention provides a new approach which produces both a fingerprint and a partial or complete sequence in a single analysis, and may be used directly with complex DNAs and populations of RNA without the need for cloning.

In one aspect the invention provides apparatus for analysing a polynucleotide sequence, comprising a support and attached to a surface therof an array of the whole or a chosen part of a complete set of cligonucleotides of chosen lengths, the oligonucleotides being capable of taking part in hybridisation reactions. For studying differences between polynucleotide sequences, the invention provides in another aspect apparatus comprising a support and attached to a surface therof as array of the whole or a chosen part of a complete set of oligonucleotides of chosen lengths comprising the polynucleotide sequences, the oligonucleotides of chosen lengths

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nucleotides being capable of taking part in hybridisation reactions.

In another aspect, the invention provides a method of analysing a polynucleotide sequence, by the use of a support to the surface of which is attached an array of the whole or a chosen part of a complete set of oligonucleotides of chosen lengths, which method comprises labelling the polynucleotide sequence or fragments thereof to form labelled material, applying the labelled material under hybridisation conditions to the array, and observing the location of the label on the surface associated with particular members of the set of oligonucleotides.

The idea of the invention is thus to provide a structured array of the whole or a chosen part of a complete set of oligonucleotides of one or several chosen lengths. The array, which may be laid out on a supporting film or glass plate, forms the target for a hybridisation reaction. The chosen conditions of hybridisation and the length of the oligonucleotides must at all events be sufficient for the available equipment to be able to discriminate between exactly matched and mismatched cligonucleotides. In the hybridisation reaction, the array is explored by a labelled probe, which may comprise oligomers of the chosen length or longer polynucleotide sequences or fragments, and whose nature depends on the particular application. For example, the probe may comprise labelled sequences amplified from genomic DNA by the polymerase chain reaction, or a mRNA population, or a complete set of oligonucleotides from a complex sequence such as an entire genome. The end result is a set of filled cells corresponding to the aligonucleotides present in the analysed sequence, and a set of "empty" sites corresponding to the sequences

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which are absent in the analysed sequence. The pattern produces a fingerprint representing all of the sequence analysed. In addition, it is possible to assemble most or all of the sequence analysed if an oligonucleotide length is chosen such that most or all oligonucleotide sequences occur only once.

The number, the length and the sequences of the oligonucleotides present in the array "lookup table" also depend on the application. The array may include 10 all possible oligonucleotides of the chosen length, as would be required if there was no sequence information on the sequence to be analysed. In this case, the preferred length of oligonucleotide used depends on the length of the sequence to be analysed, and is such that 15 there is likely to be only one copy of any particular oligomer in the sequence to be analysed. Such arrays are large. If there is any information available on the sequence to be analysed, the array may be a selected subset. For the analysis of a sequence which 20 is known, the size of the array is of the same order as length of the sequence, and for many applications, such as the analysis of a gene for mutations, it can be ruite small. These factors are discussed in detail in what follows.

25 2. OLIGONUCLEOTIDES AS SEQUENCE PROBES

Oligonucleotides form base paired duplexes with cligonucleotides which have the complementary base sequence. The stability of the duplex is dependent on the length of the oligonucleotides and on base composition. Effects of base composition on duplex stability can be greatly reduced by the presence of high concentrations of quaternary or tertiary amines. However, there is a strong effect of mismatches in the cligonucleotides duplex on the thermal stability of the hybrid, and it is this which makes the technique of

hybridisation with oligonucleotides such a powerful method for the analysis of mutations, and for the selection of specific sequences for amplification by DNA polymerase chain reaction. The position of the 5 mismatch affects the degree of destabilisation. Mismatches in the centre of the duplex may cause a lowering of the Tm by 10°C compared with 1°C for a terminal mismatch. There is then a range of discriminating power depending on the position of 10 mismatch, which has implications for the method described here. There are ways of improving the discriminating power, for example by carrying out hybridisation close to the Tm of the duplex to reduce the rate of formation of mismatched duplexes, and by 15 increasing the length of oligonucleotide beyond what is required for unique representation. A way of doing this systematically is discussed.

3. ANALYSIS OF A PREDETERMINED SEQUENCE

One of the most powerful uses of oligonucleotide 20 probes has been in the detection of single base changes in human genes. The first example was the detection of the single base change in the betaglobin gene which leads to sickle cell disease. There is a need to extend this approach to genes in which there may be a 25 number of different mutations leading to the same phenotype, for example the DMD gene and the HPRT gene, and to find an efficient way of scanning the human genome for mutations in regions which have been shown by linkage analysis to contain a disease locus for 30 example Huntington's disease and Cystic Fibrosis. Any known sequence can be represented completely as a set of overlapping oligonucleotides. The size of the set is N s + 1 = N, where N is the length of the sequence and s is the length of an oligomer. A gene of 1 kb for 35 example, may be divided into an overlapping set of

around one thousand oligonucleotides of any chosen length. An array constructed with each of these oligonucleotides in a separate cell can be used as a multiple hybridisation probe to examine the hozologous sequence in any context, a single-copy gene in the human genome or a messenger RNA among a mixed RNA population, for example. The length s may be chosen such that there is only a small probability that any oligomer in the sequence is represented elsewhere in the sequence 10 to be analysed. This can be estimated from the expression given in the section discussing statistics below. For a less complete analysis it would be possible to reduce the size of the array e.g. by a factor of up to 5 by representing the sequence in a partly or non-overlapping set. The advantage of using a completely overlapping set is that it provides a more precise location of any sequence difference, as the mismatch will scan in s consecutive oligonucleotides. ANALYSIS OF AN UNDETERMINED SEQUENCE

20 The genomes of all free living organisms are larger than a million base pairs and none has yet been sequenced completely. Restriction site mapping reveals only a small part of the sequence, and can detect only a small portion of mutations when used to compare two genomes. More efficient methods for analysing complex 25 sequences are needed to bring the full power of molecular genetics to bear on the many biological problems for which there is no direct access to the gene or genes involved. In many cases, the full sequence of the nucleic acids need not be determined; 30 the important sequences are those which differ between two nucleic acids. To give three examples: the DNA sequences which are different between a wild type organism and the which carries a mutant can lead the way to isolation of the relevant gene; similarly, the 35 s quence differences between a cancer cell and its

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normal counterpart can reveal the cause of transformation; and the RNA sequences which differ between two cell types point to the functions which distinguish them. These problems can be opened to molecular 5 analysis by a method which identifies sequence differences. Using the approach outlined here, such differences can be revealed by hybridising the two nucleic acids, for example the genomic DNA of the two genotypes, or the mRNA populations of two cell types to an array of oligonucleotides which represent all 10 possible sequences. Positions in the array which are occupied by one sequence but not by the other show differences in two sequences. This gives the sequence information needed to synthesise probes which can then . 15 be used to isolate clones of the sequence involved.

4.1 ASSEMBLING THE SEQUENCE INFORMATION

Sequences can be reconstructed by examining the result of hybridisation to an array. Any oligonucleotide of length s from within a long sequence, overlaps with two others over a length s-1. Starting from each positive oligonuclectide, the array may be examined for the four oligonuclectides to the left and the four to the right that can overlap with a one base displacement. If only one of these four oligonucleotides is found to be positive to the right, then the overlap and the additional base to the right determine s bases in the unknown sequence. The process is repeated in both directions, seeking unique matches with other positive oligonucleotides in the array. Each unique match adds a base to the reconstructed sequence.

4.2 SOME STATISTICS

Any sequence of length N can be broken down to a set of ~ N overlapping sequences s base pairs in length. (For double stranded nucleic acids, the sequence complexity of a sequence of N base pairs is 2N, because the two strands have different sequences,

but for the present purpose, this factor of two is not significant). For oligonucleotides of length s, there are 4^S different sequence combinations. How big should s be to ensure that most oligonucleotides will be represented only once in the sequence to be analysed, of complexity N? For a random sequence the expected number of s-mers which will be present in more than one copy is

$$\mu_{>1}\approx 4^{e}(1-e^{-\lambda}(1+\lambda))$$

10 where

$$\lambda = (N - s + 1)/4^s$$

For practical reasons it is also useful to know how many sequences are related to any given s-mer by a 15 single base change. Each position can be substituted by one of three bases, there are therefore 3s sequences related to an individual s-mer by a single base change. and the probability that any s-mer in a sequence of N. bases is related to any other s-mer in that sequence allowing one substitution is $3s \times N/4^{s}$. The relative 20 signals of matched and mismatched sequences will then depend on how good the hybridisation conditions are in distinguishing a perfect match from one which differ by a single base. (If 4^S is an order of magnitude greater 25 than N, there should only be a few, 3s/10, related to any oligonucleotide by one tase change.) The indications are that the yield of hybrid from the mismatched sequence is a fraction of that formed by the perfect duplex.

- For what follows, it is assumed that conditions can be found which allow oligonucleotides which have complements in the probe to be distinguished from those which do not.
 - 4.3 ARRAY FORMAT, CONSTRUCTION AND SIZE
- To form an idea of the scale of the arrays needed

to analyse sequences of different complexity it is convenient to think of the array as a square matrix. All sequences of a given length can be represented just once in a matrix constructed by drawing four rows representing the four bases, followed by four similar columns. This produces a 4 x 4 matrix in which each of the 16 squares represents one of the 16 doublets. Four similar matrices, but one quarter the size, are then drawn within each of the original squares. This produces a 16 x 16 matrix containing all 256 tetranucleotide sequences. Repeating this process produces a matrix of any chosen depth, s, with a number of cells equal to 4^{S} . As discussed above, the choice of s is of great importance, as it determines the complexity of 15 the sequence representation. As discussed below, s also determines the size of the matrix constructed, which must be very big for complex genomes. Finally, the length of the oligonucleotides determines the hybridisation conditions and their discriminating power 20 as hybridisation probes.

				Side of Matrix	Number of
	S	īt s	Genomes	(pixel=100 µm)	Sheets of film
	8	65536	4 ^s x 10		
	9	262144			
25	10	1.0×10^6	cosmid	100 ==	1
	11	4.2×10^6			
	12	1.7×10^{7}			
	13	6.7×10^7	E.coli		
	14	2.6×10^{8}	yeast	1.6 =	9 .
30	15	1.1 x 10 ⁹			
	16	4.2×10^9	,	·	
	17	1.7×10^{10}			
	18.	6.7×10^{10}	human	25 E	2,500
	19	2.7×10^{11}			
35	20	1.1×10^{12}		100 ⊏	•

The table shows the expected scale of the arrays needed to perform the first analysis of a few genomes. The examples were chosen because they are genomes which have either been sequenced by conventional procedures the cosmid scale -, are in the process of being sequenced - the E. coli scale -, or for which there has been considerable discussion of the magnitude of the problem - the human scale. the table shows that the expected scale of the matrix approach is only a small fraction of the conventional approach. This is readily seen in 10 the area of X-ray film that would be consumed. It is also evident that the time taken for the analysis would be only a small fraction of that needed for gel methods. The "Genomes" column shows the length of random sequence which would fill about 5% of cells in - 15 the matrix. This has been determined to be the optimum condition for the first step in the sequencing strategy discussed below. At this size, a high proportion of the positive signals would represent single occurrences of each oligomer, the conditions needed to compare two 20 genomes for sequence differences.

5. REFINEMENT OF AN INCOMPLETE SEQUENCE

Reconstruction of a complex sequence produces a result in which the reconstructed sequence is interrupted at any point where an oligomer that is 25 repeated in the sequence occurs. Some repeats are present as components of long repeating structures which form part of the structural organisation of the DNA, dispersed and tandum repeats in human DNA for example. But when the length of oligonuclectide used 30 in the matrix is smaller than that needed to give totally unique sequence representation, repeats occur by chance. Such repeats are likely to be isolated. That is, the sequences surrounding the repeated oligomers are unrelated to each other. The gaps caused 35

by these repeats can be removed by extending the sequence to longer oligomers. In principle, those sequences shown to be repeated by the first analysis, using an array representation of all possible 5 oligomers, could be resynthesised with an extension at each end. For each repeated oligomer, there would be 4 x = 4 = 16 oligomers in the new matrix. hybridisation analysis would now be repeated until the sequence was complete. In practice, because the 10 results of a positive signal in the hybridisation may be ambiguous, it may be better to adopt a refinement of the first result by extending all sequences which did not give a clear negative result in the first analysis. An advantage of this approach is that extending the 15 sequence brings miszatches which are close to the ends in the shorter oligomer, closer to the centre in the extended oligomer, increasing the discriminatory power of duplex formation.

5.1 A HYPOTHETICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SEQUENCE OF BACTERIOPHAGE \(\bar{\chi}\) DNA

. Lambda phage DNA is 48,502 base pairs long. Its sequence has been completely determined, we have treated one strand of this as a test case in a computer simulation of the analysis. The table shows that the 25 appropriate size of oligomer to use for a sequence of this complexity is the 10-mer. With a matrix of 12mers, the size was :024 lines square. After "hybridisation" of the lambda 10-mers in the computer, 46,377 cells were positive, 1957 had double 30 occurrences, 75 triple occurrences, and three quairuple occurrences. These 46,377 positive cells represented known sequences, determined from their position in the Each was extended by four x one base at the 3' end and four x one base at the 5', end to give 16 x35 46,377 = 742,032 cells. This extended set reduced the

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number of double occurrences to 161, a further 16fold extension brought the number down to 10, and one
more provided a completely overlapped result. Of
course, the same end result of a fully overlapped
sequence could be achieved starting with a 4 matrix,
but the matrix would be 4000 times bigger than the
matrix needed to represent all 10-mers, and most of the
sequence represented on it would be redundant.

5.2 LAYING DOWN THE MATRIX

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The method described here envisages that the 10 matrix will be produced by synthesising oligonucleotides in the cells of an array by laying down the precursors for the four bases in a predetermined pattern, an example of which is described above. Automatic equipment for applying the precursors has yet to be 15 developed, but there are obvious possibilites: it should not be difficult to adapt a pen plotter or other computer-controlled printing device to the purpose. The smaller the pixel size of the array the better, as complex genomes need very large numbers of cells. 20 However, there are limits to how small these can be made. 100 microns would be a fairly comfortable upper limit, but could probably not be achieved on paper for reasons of texture and diffusion. On a smooth impermeable surface, such as glass, it may be possible 25 to achieve a resolution of around 10 microns, for example by using a laser typesetter to preform a solvent repellant grid, and building the oligonucleotides in the exposed regions. One attractive possibility, which allows adaptation of present 30 techniques of oligonuclectide synthesis, is to sinter microporous glass in microscopic patches onto the surface of a glass plate. Laying down very large number of lines or dots could take a long time, if the printing mechanism were slow. However, a low cost ink-35

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jet printer can print at speeds of ab ut 10,000 spots per second. With this sort of speed, 10^8 spots could be printed in about three hours.

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5.3 OLIGONUCLEOTIDE SYNTHESIS

There are several methods of synthesising oligonucleotides. Most methods in current use attach the nucleotides to a solid support of controlled pore 10 size glass (CPG) and are suitable for adaptation to synthesis on a glass surface. Although we know of no description of the direct use of cligonucleotides as hybridisation probes while still attached to the matrix on which they were synthesised, there are reports of the use of oligonucleotides as hybridisation probes on 15 solid supports to which they were attached after synthesis. PCT Application WO 85/01051 describes a method for synthesising oligonucleotides tethered to a CPG column. In an experiment performed by us, CPG was 20 used as the support in an Applied Bio-sytems oligonucleotide synthesiser to synthesise a 13-mer complementary to the left hand cos site of phage lambda. The coupling steps were all close to theoretical yield. The first base was stably attached 25 to the support medium through all the synthesis and deprotection steps by a covalent link.

6. PROBES, HYBRIDISATION AND DETECTION

The yield of oligonucleotides synthesised on microporous glass is about 30 µmcl/g. A patch of this material 1 micron thick by 10 microns square would hold ~ 3 x 10⁻¹² µmol, equivalent to about 2 g of human

DNA. The hybridisation reaction could therefore be carried out with a very large excess of the bound oligonucleotides over that in the probe. So it should be possible to design a system capable of distinguishing between hybridisation involving single and multiple occurrances of the probe sequence, as yield will be proportional to concentration at all stages in the reaction.

The polynucleotide sequence to be analysed may be 10 of DNA or RNA. To prepare the probe, the polynucleotide may be degraded to form fragments. Preferably it is degraded by a method which is as random as possible, to an average length around the chosen length s of the oligonucleotides on the support, and oligomers of exact 15 length s selected by electrophoresis on a sequencing gel. The probe is then labelled. For example, oligonucleotides of length s may be end labelled. If labelled with 32P, the radioactive yield of any individual s-mer even from total human DNA could be more than 10^4 dpm/mg of total DNA. For setection, only 20 a small fraction of this is needed in a patch 10-100 microns square. This allows hybridisation conditions to be chosen to be close to the Tm of duplexes, which decreases the yield of hybrid and decreases the rate of 25 formation, but increases the discriminating power. Since the bound oligonucleotide is in excess, signal need not be a problem even working close to equilibrium.

Hybridisation conditions can be chosen to be those known to be suitable in standard procedures used to hybridise to filters, but establishing optimum conditions is important. In particular, temperature needs to be controlled closely, preferably to better than ± 0.5 C. Particularly when the chosen length of the oligonucleotide is small, the analysis needs to b

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able to distinguish between slight differences of rate and/or extent of hybridisation. The equipment may need to be programmed for differences in base composition between different oligonucleotides. In constructing the array, it may be preferable to partition this into sub-matrices with similar base compositions. This may make it easier to define the Tm which may differ slightly according to the base composition.

Autoradiograpy, especially with P causes image degradation which may be a limiting factor determining resolution; the limit for silver halide films is around 25 microns. Obviously some direct detection system would be better. Fluorescent probes are envisaged; given the high concentration of the target oligonucleotides, the low sensitivity of fluorescence may not be a problem.

We have considerable experience of scanning autoradiographic images with a digitising scanner. Our present design is capable of resolution down to 25 microns, which could readily be extended down to less than present application, depending on the quality of the hybridisation reaction, and how good it is at distinguishing absence of a sequence from the presence of one or more. Devices for measuring astronomical plates have an accuracy around 1 µ. Scan speeds are such that a matrix of several million cells can be scanned in a few minutes. Software for the analysis of the data is straight-forward, though the large data sets need a fast computer.

Experiments presented below demonstrate the feasibility of the claims.

Commercially available microscope slides (BDH Super Premium 76 x 26 x 1 mm) were used as supports. These were derivatised with a long aliphatic linker that can withstand the conditions used for the

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deprotection of the aromatic heterocyclic bases, i.e. 30% NH at 55° for 10 hours. The linker, bearing a hydroxyl group which serves as a starting point for the subsequent oligonucleotide, is synthesised in two steps. The slides are first treated with a 25% solution of 3-glycidoxypropyltriethoxysilane in xylene containing several drops of Hunig's base as a catalyst. The reaction is carried out in a staining jar, fitted with a drying tube, for 20 hours at 90°C. The slides are washed with MeOH, Et 0 and air dried. Then neat hexaethylene glycol and a trace amount of conc. sulphuric acid are added and the mixture kept at 80° for 20 hours. The slides are washed with MeOH, Et 0, air dried and stored desiccated at -20° until use. This preparative technique is described in British Patent Application 8822228.6 filed 21 September 1988.

The oligonucleotide synthesis cycle is performed as follows:

The coupling solution is made up fresh for each 20 step by mixing 6 vol. of 0.5M tetrazole in anhydrous acetonitrile with 5 vol. of a 0.2M solution of the required beta-cyanoethylphosphoramidite. Coupling time is three minutes. Oxidation with a 0.1M solution of I in THF/pyridine/H 0 yields a stable phospho-25 triester bond. Detritylation of the 5' end with 3% trichloroacetic acid in dichloromethane allows further extension of the oligonucleotide chain. capping step since the excess of phosphoramidites used over reactive sites on the slide was large enough to 30 drive the coupling to completion. After the synthesis is completed, the oligonucleotide is deprotected in 30% NH₂ for 10 hours at 55° . The chemicals used in the coupling step are moisture-sensitive, and this critical step must be performed under anhydrous conditions in a 35 sealed container, as follows. The shape of the patch

to be synthesised was cut out of a sheet of silicone rubber (76 x 26 x 0.5 mm) which was sandwiched between a microscope slide, derivatised as described above, and a piece of teflon of the same size and thickness. To this was fitted a short piece of plastic tubing that allowed us to inject and withdraw the coupling solution by syringe and to flush the cavity with Argon. The whole assembly was held together by fold-back paper clips. After coupling the set-up was disassembled and the slide put through the subsequent chemical reactions (oxidation with iodine, and detritylation by treatment with TCA) by dipping it into staining jars.

EXAMPLE 1.

As a first example we synthesised the sequences 15 oligo-dT₁₀-oligo-dT₁₀ on a slide by gradually decreasing the level of the coupling solution in steps 10 to 14. Thus the 10-mer was synthesised on the upper part of the slide, the 14-mer at the bottom and the 11, 12 and 13-mers were in between. We used 10 pmol oligo- dA_{12} , 20 labelled at the 5' end with P by the polynucleotide kinase reaction to a total activity of 1.5 million c.p.m., as a hybridisation probe. Hybridisation was carried out in a perspex (Plexiglas) container made to fit a microscope slide, filled with 1.2 ml of 1M NaCl 25 in TE, 0.1% SDS, for 5 minutes at 20°. After a short rinse in the same solution without oligonucleotide, we were able to detect more than 2000 c.p.s. with a radiation monitor. An autoradizgraph showed that all the counts came from the area where the oligonucleotide 30 had been synthesised, i.e. there was no non-specific tinding to the glass or to the region that had been derivatised with the linker only. After partial elution in 0.1.M NaCl differential binding to the target is detectable, i.e. less binding to the shorter 35 than the longer oligo-dT. By gradually heating the

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slide in the wash solution we determined the T (midpoint of transition when 50% eluted) to be 33 $^{\circ}$. There were no counts detectable after incubation at 39 $^{\circ}$. The hybridisation and melting was repeated eight times with no diminution of the signal. The result is reproducible. We estimate that at least 5% of the input counts were taken up by the slide at each cycle.

EXAMPLE 2.

In order to determine whether we would be able to 10 distinguish between matched and mismatched oligonucleotides we synthesised two sequences 3' CCC GCC GCT GGA (cost) and 3' CCC GCC TCT GGA, which differ by one base at position 7. All bases except the seventh were added in a rectangular patch. At the seventh base, 15 half of the rectangle was exposed in turn to add the two different bases, in two stripes. Hybridisation of cosR probe oligonucleotide (5' GGG CGG CGA CCT) (kinase TP to 1.1 million c.p.m., 0.1 M NaCl, TE, 0.1% SDS) was for 5 hours at 32°. The front of the 20 slide showed 100 c.p.s. after rinsing. Autoradiography showed that annealing occurred only to the part of the slide with the fully complementary oligonucleotide. No signal was detectable on the patch with the mismatched sequence.

EXAMPLE 3.

For a further study of the effects of mismatches or shorter sequences on hybridisation behaviour, we constructed two arrays; one (a) of 24 cligonucleotides and the other (b) of 72 oligonucleotides.

These arrays were set out as shown in Table 1(a) and 1(b). The masks used to lay down these arrays were different from those used in previous experiments. Lengths of silicone rubber tubing (1mm c.d.) were glued with silicone rubber cement to the surface of plain microscope slides, in the form of a "U". Clamping

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these masks against a derivatised microscope slide produced a cavity into which the coupling sclution was introduced through a syringe. In this way only the part of the slide within the cavity came into contact with the phosphoramidite solution. Except in the positions of the mismatched bases, the arrays listed in Table 1 were laid down using a mask which covered most of the width of the slide. Off-setting this mask by 3mm up or down the derivatised slide in subsequent coupling reactions produced the olignucleotides truncated at the 3' or 5' ends.

For the introduction of mismatches a mask was used which covered half (for array (a)) or one third (for array (b)) of the width of the first mask. The bases at positions six and seven were laid down in two or three longitudinal stripes. This led to the synthesis of oligonucleotides differing by one base on each half (array (a)) or third (array (b)) of the slide. In other positions, the sequences differed from the longest sequence by the absence of bases at the ends.

In array (b), there were two columns of sequences between those shown in Table 1(b), in which the sixth and seventh bases were missing in all positions, because the slide was masked in a stripe by the silicone rubber seal. Thus there were a total of 72 different sequences represented on the slide in 90 different positions.

The 19-mer 5' CTC CTG AGG AGA AGT CTG C was used for hybridisation (2 million cpm, 1.2 ml 0.1M \aCl in TE, 0.1% SDS, 20°).

The washing and elution steps were followed by autoradiography. The slide was kept in the washing solution for 5 min at each elution step and then exposed (45 min, intensified). Elution temperatures were 23, 36, 42, 47, 55 and 60°C respectively.

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As indicated in the table, the oligonucleotides showed different melting behaviour. Short oligonucleotides melted before longer ones, and at 55°C, only the perfectly matched 19-mer was stable, all other oligonucleotides had been eluted. Thus the method can differentiate between a 18-mer and a 19-mer which differ only by the absence of one base at the end. Mismatches at the end of the oligonucleotides and at internal sites can all be melted under conditions where the perfect duplex remains.

Thus we are able to use very stringent hybridisation conditions that eliminate annealing to mismatch sequences or to oligonucleotides differing in length by as little as one base. No other method using hybridisation of oligonucleotides bound to the solid supports is so sensitive to the effects of mismatching.

EXAMPLE 4.

To test the application of the invention to diagnosis of inherited diseases, we hybridised the 20 array (a), which carries the oligonucleotide sequences specific for the wild type and the sickle cell mutations of the β -globin gene, with a 110 base pair fragment of DNA amplified from the P -globin gene by means of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Total DNA from the 25 blood of a normal individual (1 microgram) was amplified by PCR in the presence of appropriate primer oligonucleotides. The resulting 110 base pair fragment was purified by elecrophoresis through an agarose gel. After elution, a small sample (ca. 10 picogram) was labelled by using $\angle - P-dCTP$ (50 microCurie) in a 30 second PCR reaction. This PCR contained only the upstream priming oligonucleotide. After 60 cycles of amplification with an extension time of 9 min. the product was removed from precursors by gel filtration. 35 Gel electrophoresis of the radioactive product showed a

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major band corresponding in length to the 110 base fragment. One quarter of this product (100,000 c.p.m. in 0.9 M NaCl, TE, 0.1% SDS) was hybridised to the array (a). After 2 hours at 30 ca. 15000 c.p.m. had been taken up. The melting behaviour of the hybrids was followed as described for the 19-mer in example 3, and it was found that the melting behaviour was similar to that of the oligonucleotide. That is to say, the mismatches considerably reduced the melting temperature of the hybrids, and conditions were readily found such that the perfectly matched duplex remained whereas the mismatched duplexes had fully melted.

Thus the invention can be used to analyse long fragments of DNA as well oligonucleotides, and this example shows how it may be used to test nucleic acid sequences for mutations. In particular it shows how it may be applied to the diagnosis of genetic diseases.

EXAMPLE 5.

To test an automated system for laying down the precursors, the cosL oligonucleotide was synthesised with 11 of the 12 bases added in the way described For the addition of the seventh base, however, the slide was transferred into an Argon filled chamber containing a pen plotter. The pen of the plotter had been replaced by a component, fabricated from Nylon, which had the same shape and dimensions as the pen, but which carried a polytetrafluorcethylene (PTFE) tube, through which chemicals could be delivered to the surface of the glass slide which lay on the bed of the plotter. A microcomputer was used to control the plotter and the syringe pump which delivered the The pen, carrying the delivery tube from chemicals. the syringe, was moved into position above the slide, the pen was lowered and the purp activated to lay down coupling solution. Filling the pen successively with

G, T and A phosphoramidite solutions an array of twelve spots was laid down in three groups of four, with three different oligonucleotide sequences. After hybridisation to cosR, as described in Example 2, and autoradiography, signal was seen only over the four spots of perfectly matched oligonucleotides, where the dG had been added.

In conclusion, we have demonstrated the following:

- 1. It is possible to synthesise oligonucleotides in good yield on a flat glass plate.
 - 2. Multiple sequences can be synthesised on the sample in small spots, at high density, by a simple manual procedure, or automatically using a computer controlled device.
- 15 3. Hybridisation to the oligonucleotides on the plate can be carried out by a very simple procedure. Hybridisation is efficient, and hybrids can be detected by a short autoradiographic exposure.
- 4. Hybridisation is specific. There is no detectable signal on areas of the plate where there are no oligonucleotides. We have tested the effects of mismatched bases, and found that a single mismatched base at any position in oligonucleotides ranging in length from 12-mer to 19-mer reduces the stability of the
- 25 hybric sufficiently that the signal can be reduced to a very low level, while retaining significant hybricisation to the perfectly matched hybrid.
 - 5. The oligonucleotides are stably bound to the glass and plates can be used for hybridisation repeatedly.
- The invention thus provides a novel way of analysing nucleotide sequences, which should find a wide range of application. We list a number of potential applications below:

Small arrays of oligonucleotides as fingerprinting and mapping tools

Analysis of known mutations including genetic diseases.

Example 4 above shows how the invention may be used to analyse mutations. There are many applications for such a method, including the detection of inherited diseases.

Genomic fingerprinting.

In the same way as mutations which lead to disease 10 can be detected, the method could be used to detect point mutations in any stretch of DNA. Sequences are now available for a number of regions containing the base differences which lead to restriction fragment length polymorphisms (RFLPs). An array of oligo-15 nucleotides representing such polymorphisms could be made from pairs of oligonucleotides representing the two allelic restriction sites. Amplification of the sequence containing the RFLP, followed by hybridisation to the plate, would show which alleles were present in 20 the test genome. The number of oligonuclectides that could be analysed in a single analysis could be quite Fifty pairs made from selected alleles would be enough to give a fingerprint unique to an individual. Linkage analysis.

Applying the method described in the last paragraph to a pedigree would pinpoint recombinations. Each pair of spots in the array would give the information that is seen in the track of the RFLP analysis, using gel electrophoresis and blotting, that is now routinely used for linkage studies. It should be possible to analyse many alleles in a single analysis, by hybridisation to an array of allelic pairs of oligonucleotides, greatly simplifying the methods used to find linkage between a DNA polymorphism and phenotypic marker such as a disease gene.

The examples above could be carried out using the

method we have developed and confirmed by experiments.

Large arrays of oligonucleotides as sequence reading tools.

We have shown that oligonucleotides can be synthesised in small patches in precisely determined 5 positions by one of two methods: by delivering the precursors through the pen of a pen-plotter, or by masking areas with silicone rubber. It is obvious how a pen plotter could be adapted to synthesise large arrays with a different sequence in each position. For 10 some applications the array should be a predetermined, limited set; for other applications, the array should comprise every sequence of a predetermined length. The masking method can be used for the latter by laying down the precursors in a mask which produces 15 intersecting lines. There are many ways in which this can be done and we give one example for illustration: The first four bases, A, C, G, T, are laid in four broad stripes on a square plate.

- 20 2. The second set is laid down in four stripes equal in width to the first, and orthogonal to them. The array is now composed of all sixteen dinucleotides.

 3. The third and fourth layers are laid down in four
- sets of four stripes one quarter the width of the first stripes. Each set of four narrow stripes runs within one of the broader stripes. The array is now composed of all 256 tetranuclectides.
- 4. The process is repeated, each time laying down two layers with stripes which are one quarter the width of the previous two layers. Each layer added increases the length of the oligonucleotides by one base, and the number of different oligonucleotide sequences by a factor of four.

The dimensions of such arrays are determined by the width of the stripes. The narrowest stripe we

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have laid is 1mm, but this is clearly not the lowest limit.

There are useful applications for arrays in which part of the sequence is predetermined and part made up of all possible sequences. For example:

Characterising mRNA populations.

Most mRNAs in higher eukaryotes have the sequence AAUAAA close to the 3' end. The array used to analyse mRNAs would have this sequence all over the plate. To analyse a mRNA population it would be hybridised to an array composed of all sequences of the type N AATAAAN . For m+n=8, which should be enough to give a unique oligonucleotide address to most of the several thousand mRNAs that is estimated to be present in a source such as a mammalian cell, the array would be 256 elements square. The 256 x 256 elements would be laid on the AATAAA using the masking method described above. With stripes of around 1mm, the array would be ca. 256mm square.

This analysis would measure the complexity of the mRNA population and could be used as a basis for comparing populations from different cell types. The advantage of this approach is that the differences in the hybridisation pattern would provide the sequence of oligonucleotides that could be used as probes to isolate all the mRNAs that differed in the populations. Sequence determination.

To extend the idea to determine unkown sequences, using an array composed of all possible oligonucleotides of a chosen length, requires larger arrays than we have synthesised to date. However, it is possible to scale down the size of spot and scale up the numbers to those required by extending the methods we have developed and tested on small arrays. Our experience shows that the method is much simpler in operation than the gel based methods.

TABLE 1

	For	Exam	nple	s 3 á	and 4	arı	ay	(a)	was	se1	t ou	ut as	fo	llow	s:				
	20	GAG	GAC	TCC	TCT	ACG			20	0 (GAG	GAC	aCC	TCT	ACG				
	36	GAG	GAC	TCC	TCT	GAC	G		20	0 (GAC	GAC	aCC	TCT	GAC	G			
	36	GAG	GAC	TCC	TCT	AGA	CG		20	0 (GAC	GAC	aCC	TCT	AGA	CG			
	47	GAG	GAC	TCC	TCT	CAG	ACG		3	6 (GAG	GAC	aCC	TCT	CAG	ACG			
5	60	GAG	GAC	TCC	TCT	TCA	GAC	G	4	7 (GAG	GAC	aCC	TCT	TCA	GAC	G		
	56	.AG	GAC	TCC	TCT	TCA	GAC	G	4:	2 ,	. AG	GAC	aCC	TCT	TCA	GAC	G		
	56	G	GAC	TCC	TCT	TCA	GAC	G.	4	2 .	G	GAC	aCC	TCT	TCA	GAC	G		
	47		GAC	TCC	TCT	TCA	GAC	G	4	2 .	• • •	GAC	aCC	TCT	TCA	GAC	G	•	
	42	• • •	.AC	TCC	TCT	TCA	GAC	G	3	6 .	• • •	.AC	aCC	TCT	TCA	GAC	G	•	
10	36		C	TCC	TCT	TCA	GAC	G	3	6.		0	aCC	TCT	TCA	GAC	G		
	36			TCC	TCT	TCA	GAC	G	3	6.		• • •	aCC	TCT	TCA	GAC	G		
	36		• • •	.cc	TCT	TCA	GAC	G	3	6.		• • •	.cc	TCT	TCA	GAC	G		
	For	exan																	
15	20 GAG													GAG G					
	20 GAG																		
	20 GAG																		
	20 GAG																		
	20 GAG																		
20	20 GAG																		
	20 GAG																		
	20 GAG														AC aCC				
	32 GAG																		
	32 GAG																		
25	42 GAG																		
	52 GAG																		
	42 .AG																		
	42																		
	37																		
30	æ																		
	32																		
	32																	GAC	G
									-						were				
															issir		ח		
35		-									ed a	et 20	or	32 (degre	es.	٠.		
	(a,t	;)	ismat	tch l	base	(.)	m15	sing	, bas	se.							•	•	

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CLAIMS

- Apparatus for analysing a polynuclectide sequence, comprising a support and attached to a surface thereof an array of the whole or a chosen part of a complete set of oligonucleotides of chosen lengths, the oligonucleotides being capable of taking part in hybridisation reactions.
- Apparatus for studying differences between polynucleotide sequences, comprising a support and attached 10 to a surface thereof an array of the whole or a chosen part of a complete set of oligonucleotides of chosen lengths comprising the polynucleotide secuences, the oligonucleotides being capable of taking part in hybridisation reactions.
- 15 Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the array comprises one or more pairs of oligonuclectides of chosen lengths.
 - Apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the array comprises one or more pairs of oligonucleotides of chosen lengths representing normal and mutant versions of a point mutation to be studied.
 - Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the chosen length is from 8 to 20 nucleotides.
- Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, 25 wherein the surface of the support to which the oligonucleotides are attached is of glass.
 - Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein each oligonucleotide is bound to the support through a covalent link.
- 30 8. A method of analysing a polynucleotide sequence, by the use of a support to the surface of which is attached an array of the whole or a chosen part of a complete set of oligonucleotides of chosen lengths. which method comprises labelling the polynucleotide
- 35 sequence or fragments thereof to form labelled material,

applying the labelled material under hybridisation conditions to the array, and observing the location of the label on the surface associated with particular members of the set of oligonucleotides.

- 9. A method according to claim 8, applied to the study of differences between polynucleotide sequences, wherein the array is of the whole or a chosen part of the complete set of oligonucleotides of chosen lengths comprising the polynucleotide sequences.
- 10. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the array comprises one or more pairs of oligonucleotides of chosen lengths.
 - 11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the array comprises one or more pairs of oligonucleotides cf
- chosen lengths representing normal and mutant versions of a point mutation being studied.
 - 12. A method according to any one of claims 8 to 11, wherein the polynucleotide sequence is randomly degraded to form a mixture of oligomers of a chosen
- length, the mixture being thereafter labelled to form the labelled material.
 - 13. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the oligomers are labelled with $^{\circ}$ P.
- 14. A method as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 13, wherein the chosen length is from 8 to 20 nucleotides.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/GB 89/00460

	SIFICATI N OF SUBJECT MATTER (it several classifi		
	c to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both Nation C 12 Q 1/68	onal Classification and IPC	
IPC4:	C 12 Q 1/68	·	
II. FIELD	S SEARCHED		
	Minimum Document	ation Searched 7	
Classificati	ion System- C	Classification Symbols	
IPC4	C 12 Q		
	Documentation Searched other the to the Extent that such Documents a	en Minimum Documentation are included in the Fields Searched ²	
	<u>.</u>	·	
III. DOCL	JMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of Document, 11 with Indication, where appro	opriate, of the relevant passages 12	Relevant to Claim No. 13
X	GB, A, 2156074 (ORION-YH 1985, see the whole o		1-14
A	EP, A, 0228075 (MOLECULA) 8 July 1987	R DIAGNOSTIC INC.)	
A	WO, A, 85/01051 (MOLECUL) 14 March 1985	AR BIOSYSTEMS INC.)	
	cited in the application	·	-
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	categories of cited documents: 19	"T" later document published after the or priority date and not in conflict.	e international filing date
con	ument defining the general state of the art which is not sidered to be of particular relevance	cited to understand the principle invention	
"E" earli filin	ier document but published on or after the international g date	"X" document of particular relevanc	; the claimed invention
"L" doc	ument which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or ch is clied to establish the publication date of another	cannot be considered novel or involve an inventive step	
cital	tion or other special reason (as specified) .	"Y" document of particular relevanc cannot be considered to involve a	n inventive step when the
Othe	ument referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ir means	document is combined with one of ments, such combination being or in the art.	
"F" doci	ument published prior to the international filing date but r then the priority date claimed	"4" document member of the same po	stent family
IV. CERT	IFICATION		
	Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this international Sea	rch Report
1st	August 1989	28. 08. 89	
Internation	al Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer	
	EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	M. VAN MOL / /	

ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO.

GB 8900460 SA 28452

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on 21/08/89

The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patr me	Publication date	
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HP LaserJet 4000 series printers



Configuration Page

Printer Informati n

Product Name: HP LaserJet 4000 Series Printer Name: HP LaserJet 4000 Series

Printer Number: A

Formatter Number: \$4601Z130MN Printer Serial Number = USEF027583 Firmware Datecode: 970827 dev3.50 PS Wait Time-out: 300 seconds Page Count: 37112

Pages Since Last Maintenance = 37112

Memory

Total Memory: 12 MBytes PCL DWS: 9.78

I/O Buffering:

100K bytes Allocated of 8100K bytes Available

Resource Saving:

OK bytes Allocated of 5100K bytes Available

Installed Personalities and Options

PCL (19970902) PCLXL (19970902)

PS (19970902)

DIMM Slot 1: 8 MByte RAM DIMM DIMM Slot 2: Empty DIMM Slot 3: Empty

EIO 1: HP JETDIRECT

EIO 2: Empty

J3110A

Security

Control Panel Lock: NONE

Control Panel Password: DISABLED

Event Log

Number of Entries in Use: 14 Maximum Number of Entries: 30

Last Three Entries:

Number Error Page Count 13.01.80 35967 14 13.32.11 32837 13.02.80 32837

Paper Trays and Options

Mopier = OFF Default Paper Size: LETTER

Tray 2 (LETTER) Tray 3 (LETTER)

HP LaserJet 4000 series printers



EIO 1 - JETDIRECT PAGE

JetDirect Configuration Page

GENERAL INFORMATION

J3110A N: G.05.35 0060B090B1AE 10BASE-T (RJ45) 37453745900534 HP JETDIRECT FIRMWARE REVISION: LAN HW ADDRESS: PORT SELECT: MFG ID:

I/O CARD READY

NETWORK STATISTICS
UNICAST PACKETS RCVD:
TOTAL PACKETS RCVD:
BAD PACKETS RCVD:
FRAMING ERRORS RCVD:
PACKETS TRANSMITTED:
UNSENDABLE PACKETS:
XMIT COLLISIONS: 150602 1053181 157641

XMIT LATE COLLISIONS:

1883

PROTOCOL INFORMATION

TCP/IP STATUS:

DISABLED

APPLETALK STATUS:

DISABLED

DLC/LLC STATUS:

DISABLED

NOVELL STATUS:

READY

MODE: NODE NAME: QUEUE SERVER

P-862

SERVER NAME: SFNW1

NOVELL RETRANS: NETWORK FRAME TYPE 00020301 EN 802.2 DISABLED ENTSNAP DISABLED EN II